

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01  
ACDA-07 IO-13 DHA-02 CCO-00 /085 W  
-----231334Z 055064 /50

O R 231142Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3427  
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 241  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
COMSIXTHFLT  
CTF SIX ZERO  
CTF SIX ONE  
CTF SIX TWO  
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1296

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, ASEC, PINS, LE  
SUBJECT: JUNBLATT ASSASSINATION - SITUATION MARCH 23

REF: BEIRUT 1260 (DTG 221203Z MAR 77)

1. SUMMARY: OVERALL SITUATION CONTINUES RELATIVELY CALM,  
WITH NO NEW REPORTS OF KILLINGS. HOWEVER, CHRISTIAN  
MAJORITY IN MIXED CHRISTIAN-BRUZE AREA IN THE METN APPEAR  
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NOW TO BE BEGINNING TO DRIVE DRUZES OUT OF VILLAGES.  
CAMILLE CHAMOUN SPEAKS MODERATELY IN PUBLIC BUT KEEPING  
THE PRESSURE UP PRIVATELY ON SARKIS. PIERRE GEMAYEL  
SPEAKS FAVORABLY OF WALID JUNBLATT. WE HAVE CONFIRMATION  
THAT SOME INDIVIDUALS IMPLICATED IN MURDERS OF CHRISTIANS  
HAVE BEEN DETAINED. WALID JUNBLATT IS LEADING LEFTIST  
LEADERSHIP IN MODERATE ATTITUDE. END SUMMARY.

2. RELATIVE CALM.

SITUATION IS GENERALLY QUIET IN BEIRUT AND CHOUF, ALTHOUGH AIR OF TENSION PERSISTS AND FEARS OF HIGH LEVEL ASSASSINATION CONTINUE. WE HAVE SOME INFORMATION THAT CHRISTIANS IN MIXED CHRISTIAN-DRUZE VILLAGES IN THE METN, WHERE CHRISTIANS ARE MAJORITY, ARE NOW FORCING DRUZES TO LEAVE BUT NO REPEAT NO REPORTS SO FAR OF ANY KILLINGS IN THE AREA.

3. CHAMOUN.

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP IS MODERATING ITS TONE SOMEWHAT BUT KEEPING UP PRESSURE ON THE GOL. CAMILLE CHAMOUN SAID THAT "PEOPLE WILL FEEL MORE ASSURED IF JUSTICE IS APPLIED QUICKLY. IF THIS IS DONE, WE CAN AVOID NEW INCIDENTS." HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE HAS PRIVATELY SET A DEADLINE OF 1700 TODAY, MARCH 23, FOR PRESIDENT SARKIS TO TAKE DECISIVE ACTION TO APPREHEND THOSE WHO SLAUGHTERED CHRISTIANS IN THE CHOUF.

4. GEMAYEL.

ASKED BY A JOURNALIST TO COMMENT ON THE VIEW OF THE LEBANESE FORCES' "UNIFIED COMMAND" THAT GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO DATE WERE "INSUFFICIENT" (REFTEL), PIERRE GEMAYEL POINTED OUT THAT THE FORCES WERE RESPONSIBLE POLITICALLY TO THE KFUR FRONT LEADERSHIP. GEMAYEL SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MASSACRES WOULD BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE ALLUDED TO "WALID BEY" JUNBLATT AS SOMEONE HE ALWAYS LIKED AND RESPECTED, AND HOPED WALID "WILL FOLLOW THE PROPER COURSE WHICH WILL ALLOW HIM TO SAFEGUARD AND CONSOLIDATE THE JUNBLATT EDIFICE, WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN DEAR TO THE LEBANESE."

5. SANCTIONS OF MURDERERS OF CHOUF CHRISTIANS.

WE HAVE INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION THAT SIXTEEN PERSONS ACCUSED OF KILLING CHRISTIANS (15 FROM CHOUF, ONE FROM WEST BEIRUT) ARE BEING HELD. FSI SOURCES TELL US HOWEVER THAT THEY ARE UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION FOR QUESTIONING, NOT FORMAL ARREST. FSI SOURCES HAVE FEELING THAT GOL AND SYRIANS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN VIGOROUSLY PURSUING INVESTIGATION OF MASSACRES. NEVERTHELESS, WE UNDERSTAND SYRIANS NOW HAVE NUMEROUS PLAINS-CLOTHESMEN IN THE CHOUF AREA.

6. ON THE LEFT, THE CENTRAL POLITICAL COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT DECIDED TO POSTPONE THE DAY OF COMMEMORATION IT HAD

ANNOUNCED FOR MARCH 27 TO MAY 1, WE UNDERSTAND AT THE REQUEST OF WALID JUNBLATT, AS A FURTHER EFFORT TO REDUCE TENSIONS. WALID JUNBLATT CALLED FOR RECITATION OF THE PRAYER OF THE DECEASED AT 1100 THURSDAY MARCH 24, AND THE PSP LEADERSHIP HAS CALLED ON ITS MEMBERS TO OBSERVE THIS CALL. THE COUNCIL ALSO TOOK NOTE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO CHARGE THE COURT OF JUSTICE WITH THE JUNBLATT CASE, WHICH "GIVES THE UNSPEAKABLE CRIME ITS AUTHENTIC DIMENSION." LEFTIST WRITER AND INTIMATE OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT LEADERSHIP ZUHAIR QHALAQ TOLD AN EMBASSY EMPLOYEE THAT THE LEFT BELIEVES THAT THE TANZIM AND THE CHAMOUNISTS PLOTTED THE ASSASSINATION OF KAMAL JUNBLATT, AND BELIEVES THAT NEITHER THE SYRIANS NOR THE PHALANGISTS WERE INVOLVED.  
PARKER

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## Message Attributes

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